MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

OF THE

MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,

HELD IN BROOKHAVEN, MISS., NOV. 28—DEC. 5, 1866.

BISHOP PAINE, Presiding.

NASHVILLE, TENN.:
PRINTED AT THE SOUTHERN METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.
1867.

MINUTES

OF THE

FIFTY-FIRST SESSION

OF THE

MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE

METHODIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH, SOUTH,

HELD IN BROOKHAVEN, MISS., NOV. 28—DEC. 5, 1866.

BISHOP PAINE, Presiding.

NASHVILLE, TENN.:
PRINTED AT THE SOUTHERN METHODIST PUBLISHING HOUSE.
1867.

PROCEEDINGS OF CONFERENCE.

THE Fifty-first Session of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, was begun and held in Brookhaven, Mississippi, Nov. 28—Dec. 5, 1866.

Bishop Paine not having arrived, the Conference was called to order by the Secretary of last year.

On motion, Rev. W. B. Hines was called to the chair, and read the fourth chapter of 2 Corinthians. Rev. John G. Jones offered prayer.

The roll was called, and the following members answered to their names, or were present at some period during the session, viz., Samuel D. Akin, R. Abbey, C. G. Andrews, J. B. Bowen, W. P. Barton, G. W. Boyles, H. D. Berry, W. E. Ballard, C. Chamberlin, J. Carr, J. J. Clark, J. G. Carlisle, T. W. Castles, W. F. Camp, G. H. Clinton, C. W. Campbell, A. Day, R. B. Downer, D. W. Dillehay, W. W. Drake, L. Ercanbrack, J. English, J. L. Forsyth, C. T. French, E. A. Flowers, T. W. Flowers, J. A. Godfrey, C. R. Godfrey, W. W. Graves, P. E. Green, W. H. Germany, S. E. Hale, W. B. Hines, H. J. Harris, A. R. Hines, T. W. Hines, W. L. C. Hunnicutt, W. W. Hurst, R. T. Hennington, J. B. Higginbotham, B. Jones, R. J. Jones, H. F. Johnson, K. A. Jones, J. A. B Jones, John G. Jones, W. B. Johnson, L. Kendall, P. Lane, W. B. Lewis, R. W. Lambuth, H. P. Lewis, E. F. Mullins, C. A. McNeil, W. G. Millsaps, C. K. Marshall, James Maclennan, E. H. Mounger, H. H. Montgomery, David Merchant, J. W. McNeil, G. J. Mortimer, J D. Newsom, A. B. Nicholson, J. Nicholson, P. S. Petty, W. Price, T. C. Parrish, J. M. Pugh, T. Price, L. Pearce, I. B. Robertson, W. T. J. Sullivan, R. A. Sibley, J. H. Shelton, A. J. Smith, F. W. Sharbrough, E. R. Strickland, G. F. Thompson, J. A. Vance, W. H. Watkins, W. Wadsworth, H. Williamson, T. M. Ward, B. B. Whittington, N. B. Young.

Conference proceeded to the election of President, *pro tem.* On the second ballot, Brother John G. Jones was chosen.

C. G. Andrews was nominated and elected Secretary. W. L. C. Hunnicutt and R. W. Lambuth, Assistants.

The time for meeting and adjournment was fixed for 9 A.M., and 1 P.M.

The following Committees were appointed, viz:

On Public Worship—B. Jones, W. G. Millsaps, G. F. Thompson.

On Education—H J. Harris, G. H. Clinton, H. H. Montgomery.

On Church Publications—R. Abbey, S. D. Akin, T. Price.

On Missions—J. T. Forsyth, J. A. B. Jones, W. F. Camp.

On Ministerial Support—W. G. Millsaps, J. J. Clark, W. W. Drake.

On Bible Cause—W. T. J. Sullivan, B. B. Whittington, C. Chamberlin.

On Sunday-schools—W. L. C. Hunnicutt, W. E. Ballard, W. Price.

The city of Natchez having been appointed, at the last Conference, as the place of holding the present session, and the members having been informally called together at Brookhaven, the following was passed by way of making our legislation consistent with our action, viz:

Resolved, That we will hold our present session and transact our usual Conference business in this place.

Bishop Paine arrived about the middle of the first day's session, and entered upon the duties of his office.

The Conference, by formal resolution, spent the hour between 11 and 12 A.M., on the second day's session, being the 29th of October, in prayer and other religious exercises, in compliance with the proclamation of the President of the United States, setting apart Thursday, the 29th of October, as a day of thanksgiving and prayer.

Rev. Dr. McFerrin, Secretary of the Home Missionary Society, and Rev. Dr. Keener, editor of the New Orleans Christian Advocate, were in attendance upon the Conference, advocating the interests of their respective offices.

The Conference, by vote, determined to proceed with the examination of character with open doors.

Question 1. Who are admitted on trial?

Answer. E. Mark Alford and Andrew B. Stewart, from Sharon Circuit, and W. Fisk Glenn, from Union Circuit.

Q. 2. Who remain on trial?

A. A. M. Campbell.

Q. 3. Who are admitted into full connection?

A. Samuel E. Hale.

Q. 4. Who are readmitted?

A. Thos. Nixon, Jas. S. Harris.

Q. 5. Who are received by transfer from other Conferences?

A. Francis M. Williams, from the Missouri Conference, Francis K. Foster, from the Montgomery Conference, and John A. Ellis, from the Tennessee Conference.

Q. 6. Who are the Deacons of one year?

A. Thos. W. Flowers, Wm. T. Ashford, passed, W. W. Drake, W. E. Ballard, Geo. W. Boyles, passed, and elected to Elders' orders.

Q. 7. What Traveling Preachers are elected and ordained Deacons?

A. Samuel E. Hale.

Q. 8. What Local Preachers are elected and ordained Deacons?

A. William T. Beall,* Samuel Dilley, Riley Graham, Joseph Hardgroves,* J. S. Collins,* Jesse Harper,* Jason L. Jordan,* Jacob P. Briggs,* Robert C. Bethea, Adam Jackson, (colored.)*

Q. 9. What Traveling Preachers are elected and ordained Elders?

---

* Elected, but not ordained.

A. W. W. Hurst, Louis Kendall, T. M. Ward, H. Townsend,* D. Merchant, I. B. Robertson, P. Lane, P. Howard.*

Q. 10. What Local Preachers are elected and ordained Elders?

A. Thos. F. Dixon,* Geo. Cope, Benj. Holt, Eaton D. Hyde,* J. A. Williams, F. A. Alford,* Armstrong J. Blackburn,* Jno. S. Arbuthnot,* Jno. W. Sandell.

Q. 11. Who have located?

A. Jno. C. Miller, N. S. Cornell, Jno. W. McCrary, M. Cox, G. W. Alexander.

Q. 12. Who are supernumerary?

A. H. J. Harris, J. W. Shelton, G. J. Mortimer, H. Copeland, P. S. Petty, J. W. Adams.

Q. 13. Who are superannuated?

A. J. G. Jones, J. I. E. Byrd, Thos. Clinton, P. James, J. H. Massey, H. Mullins, Thos. Owens, B. Pipkin, S. T. Swiney, G. T. Vickers, J. G. Deskin, R. D. Norsworthy, J. D. Higginbotham.

Q. 14. What Preachers have died during the year?

A. Jno. D. Shaw.

Died, at the residence of Mrs. Lobdell, in Bolivar county, Miss., 30th Oct., 1866, the Rev. JNO. D. SHAW, of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the M. E. Church, South. The undersigned have very imperfect data at command, from which, on the appointment of the Conference, to write a suitable and becoming memoir of our deceased brother; but what we do know and have been told, we now give. Brother Shaw was born in Londonderry county, Ireland, about 32 or 33 years ago, and was awakened and converted there, toward the close of the year 1850. He emigrated to this country, and joined the M. E. Church, South, at Jackson, La., in February, 1851, and was for some time a student of Centenary College there, but for how long, we are not able to say. He there, however, indulged and established in his heart a strong desire for knowledge—useful knowledge—that it might become wisdom in his hands while doing good to others. This desire continued with him to the day of his death; and in consequence, like his countryman, Dr. Adam Clarke, he always "intermeddled himself with all wisdom." Not having (while we write) access to the records, we are not able to state what year he entered the ministry as a traveling preacher, but he has been in the work for twelve, if not fourteen years—a workman that needed not to be ashamed. He constantly carried with him his Greek Testament and other books, and read in them daily, in spite of all obstacles. His preaching talents, in the command of language, were not great, but his manner of presenting a subject was always interesting and purely his own. He labored much and efficiently, and was always an able helper in a quarterly and protracted meeting. But few men, we believe, could have gone through and accomplished the work, or would have been willing to encounter the hardships, exposures, and toils of an itinerant preacher's life, as did Brother Shaw, in the alluvial region of country where the last years of his ministry were spent—where the almost endless swamps, bayous, rivers, lakes, and bad roads,

* Elected, but not ordained.

are enough to appall a very stout heart; but they deterred him not—not even when the entire country became a great waste of waters from the overflow of the Mississippi River; for then he would mount his canoe instead of his horse, and without any road to guide him, other than the eye of an experienced woodsman, he would transport himself from appointment to appointment, as if no serious obstacles intervened. During last fall, at a protracted meeting at which great good was done, he labored much, and at the close of it, he was taken sick with the common chill and fever of the country, followed by bilious fever, with a tendency to jaundice—the type of all the fevers of the past year —and was seriously ill for about two weeks, at the house of D. Bell, Esq., sheriff of Bolivar county. The crisis of the disease, however, passed, and when somewhat convalescent, he made an effort to ride on horseback to meet his younger brother, whom he expected with a friend from Ireland; and while passing through Prentiss, where the Circuit Court was in session, he there fell a victim to his great desire for obtaining knowledge and information. The day was raw and cold, and the Court-house quite open; and while there waiting to hear and see something that he did not know before, he caught cold, and this brought on a relapse of his former severe sickness, with the aggravation of an enfeebled and exhausted frame to resist it; and though he was able to reach the house of the excellent lady above named, where every thing that medical skill and unremitting attention could do, was cheerfully bestowed, yet this relapse soon terminated his earthly existence. His anxiously looked-for brother got to him on Saturday, and was with him until Tuesday, when he died, for which he was very grateful to Heaven, and expressed his thankfulness. He did not apprehend death to be near, but said that he was prepared for it. On the morning of the day of his death, he said to his brother, who was then holding him up: "They are coming—come, Lord Jesus—come quickly;" and in the evening his last words were: "My belief is in Jesus;" and then, as if falling into a slumber, his body calmly and peacefully reposed itself in death, and his liberated soul fled from the troubles and miseries of earth to a realization of the joys and happiness of Heaven.

JAS. MACLENNAN, Ch'n,
W. B. HINES,
} Com.

Mississippi Conference, Dec. 25, 1866.

Q. 15. Are all the Preachers blameless in their life and official administration?

A. They are.

In this connection, the following resolution was passed, viz:

Resolved, That the action of the last Annual Conference, reflecting upon and rebuking Rev. Jno. Lusk, for neglect in his ministerial duties, be rescinded, for satisfactory reasons. W. F. CAMP.

Q. 16 and 17. What is the number of Preachers and Members in the several Circuits, Stations, and Missions of the Conference? How many infants and adults have been baptized during the year?

A. The following report is submitted. The number of baptisms reported is small, because the statute requiring their report is of recent enactment.

APPOINTMENTS.	White Members.	Colored Members.	Local Preachers.	Local Deacons.	Local Elders.	Adults Baptized.	Infants Baptized.
NATCHEZ DISTRICT.							
Natchez and Colored Charge	185	25					
Kingston, Washington, and Colored Charge		25					
Buffalo and Colored Charge	72	94			1	13	9
Macedonia and Colored Charge	125	25	5				
Wilkinson	150	116					
Wilkinson Colored Charge							
Woodville and Colored Charge	74	80	1				
Percy's Creek							
Clinton, Jackson, La., and Colored Charge	132	20		1		3	
East Feliciana	184	98			3	7	
Bayou Sara Plains and Colored Charge	82	37					
German Mission							
Total in Natchez District	1004	520	6	1	4	23	16
VICKSBURG DISTRICT.							
Vicksburg and Colored Charge	214					5	15
Warren	182		5				
Raymond and Spring Ridge	170	45	1	1			
Cayuga and Colored Charge	150				1		
Rocky Springs	100						
Burtonton	100						
Burton Colored Charge		62					
Port Gibson and Colored Charge	70	142			1	10	35
Claiborne and Colored Charge		50					
Fayette	283	50	1	1	3	6	9
Jefferson Colored Charge		300					
Rodney Colored Charge		50					
Total Vicksburg District	1269	699	7	2	5	21	59
JACKSON DISTRICT.							
Jackson	120					6	15
Clinton and Colored Charge	134				2		
Vernon, Livingston and Colored Charge	70	23				6	2
Canton and Colored Charge	95	90			1	22	9
Sharon and Colored Charge	195	80	1	2	1	4	12
Camden and Colored Charge	70	46	1			3	8
Sulphur Springs and Colored Charge							
Carthage	137	39			1	3	
Center	173	20					
Total Jackson District	994	298	2	2	5	44	46
YAZOO DISTRICT.							
Yazoo City and Colored Charge	88	30				8	11
Mt. Olivet and Colored Charge	204		1		1		
Yazoo Circuit and Colored Charge	216	130	1		2		
Richland and Colored Charge	117	63					
Lexington and Colored Charge	117	40					1
Holmes and Colored Charge	254	95				85	11
Black Hawk and Colored Charge	375	357	1	2	1	36	15
Carrollton and Colored Charge	237	35			1	25	5
Greenwood	67	125					
McNutt Circuit	50	100	1				
Total Yazoo District	1725	975	4	2	5	154	43

APPOINTMENTS.	White Members.	Colored Members.	Local Preachers	Local Deacons.	Local Elders.	Adults Baptized.	Infants Baptized.
GREENVILLE DISTRICT.							
Greenville and Upper Deer Creek	23						
Greenville Colored Charge		12					
Bolivar							
Middle Deer Creek	10	20					
Lake Lee and Leota	15	22					
Issaquena	32	208	1			68	91
Sunflower	35	48				2	3
Total Greenville District	115	310	1			70	94
STARKVILLE DISTRICT.							
Starkville and Pierce Chapel	96	90	5			10	1
Octibbeha and Colored Charge	136		1			20	3
Webster and Colored Charge	300	150	1	1	1	50	
Attala and Colored Charge	492	210	1	1	2		
Burketsville							
Zilpha Mission							
Bankston and Colored Charge	336	6		1	2		
Winona and Colored Charge	470	70	1	1	3		
Greensboro	450	20	1	1	1		
Line Creek and Colored Charge	315	100					
Louisville and Colored Charge	305	190	2	3	1		
Total Starkville District	2900	836	12	8	10	80	4
BRANDON DISTRICT.							
Brandon and Colored Charge	352	58	4	2	3	14	11
Concord	450		1	1	2	50	70
Concord Colored Charge		300	3			100	75
Goshen	59						
Hillsboro	328		4	3	1	26	6
Hillsboro Colored Charge		51					
Union	275		1				
Union Colored Charge		100					
Philadelphia	363	8	1	2	4		
Garlandsville and Colored Charge	300	78		2		3	8
Lake Mission	22						
Mt. Olive and Colored Charge	163	36					
Trenton and Colored Charge	286		1		1	20	6
Total Brandon District	2598	631	15	10	11	213	176
PAULDING DISTRICT.							
Paulding Circuit	144	48			2	11	6
Paulding Colored Charge							
Okohay	224	16	4		1	16	11
Ellisville Mission							
Black Creek							
Red Creek	35			1	1	16	
Hansboro, Biloxi and Colored Charge	104	58			1	19	
Columbia	75		1				
Gainsville Mission	50						
Mt. Carmel and Colored Charge	220	30		1		112	
Westville	186	50	1			2	9
Total Paulding District	1038	202	6	2	5	176	26

APPOINTMENTS.	White Members.	Colored Members.	Local Preachers.	Local Deacons.	Local Elders.	Adults Baptized.	Infants Baptized.
BROOKHAVEN DISTRICT.							
Brookhaven Station	60			1			6
Brookhaven Colored Charge		100					
Brookhaven Circuit	180	60	1		2		
Monticello and Colored Charge	68	58		1	1		6
Pearl River	251				1	20	5
Georgetown and Colored Charge	409	100	1		1	6	4
Crystal Springs, Hazlehurst and Colored Charge	271	73	4				
Bayou Pierre Circuit	260			2	1		
Bayou Pierre Colored Charge		62				12	7
Scotland	231		1			60	7
Scotland Colored Charge		225				40	25
Homochitto	85			1		2	1
Meadville	90	30					
Meadville Colored Charge							
Amite and Colored Charge	207	78					
Holmesville and Colored Charge	174	48		3		25	20
Total Brookhaven District	2286	834	7	8	6	165	81
ARCOLA DISTRICT.							
Arcola and Amite	175	88		2	2	3	10
Ponchatoula	76	10		1	1	5	12
Greensburg and Colored Charge							
Magnolia	89		1		1	1	11
St. Helena and Colored Charge	233		1		1		
East Baton Rouge	163					3	21
Covington	59		1				
Chefuncta Mission	59						2
Franklinton	113	14			2	10	40
Total Arcola District	967	112	3	3	7	22	96
Total Statistics	14,756	5417	63	38	58	968	641

Q. 18. What is the number of Sunday-schools, teachers, and scholars?

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON SUNDAY-SCHOOLS.

The Committee on Sunday-schools, supposing that the entire department of ministerial duties which results from our relations to the rising generation comes properly within the scope of their investigation, respectfully offer the following report:

Observation and reflection conspire to convince us, that neither Christian parents nor the ministry are duly conscious of the vast and solemn responsibilities devolving upon them, in view of the spiritual demands of the children and youth of our land. Though the Sunday-school is an agency of the first importance in its appropriate sphere, yet its functions should, by no means, supersede the duties of the pastor to the children of the Church.

If children baptized in infancy by our ministers, are really members of the Church, they should be regarded and treated as such by us in our pastoral visitations. They should be carefully catechised, and duly impressed with the idea that they are members of the Church, until

they publicly renounce their baptism. We are convinced that the practice of initiating children into the Church by baptism in infancy, and afterward ignoring the fact by expecting them to *join the Church*, should be abandoned. We have already lost thousands of members by it, and must continue to suffer fearful and irreparable losses from our numbers, until we awake to our duty on this point. Let those baptized in infancy be duly recognized as members of our Church, according to the Disciplinary direction given on page 102; and let them be taught that they do not then, for the first time, become members of the Church, but simply ratify publicly that dedication of themselves to God which had been previously made for them by others.

We regard the institution and maintenance of Sunday-schools for the benefit of the colored people within our bounds, as a duty by no means to be neglected. If the gratuitous bestowment of the blessings of the gospel upon the poor was one of the most distinguished indications of the primitive establishment of the Saviour's kingdom, can we, who rejoice in the meridian splendor of that kingdom, disregard the crying moral necessities of the poor Africans in our midst? It is true, that a strong opposition to the moral and intellectual advancement of the negro is very unjustly and unkindly felt, and very unreasonably manifested in limited sections of the country. Yet we should the more readily undertake the work of establishing Sunday-schools among them, since we would, at the same time, thereby not only demonstrate that deep interest in their spiritual welfare, which we profess to feel, but would thus afford them privileges which would be most grateful, both to the parents and children, and have a powerful tendency to perpetuate their attachment to our ministry and our Church.

With reference to the cause of Sunday-schools among the whites in our Conference, the statistics show, that though much has been done and is still being done in their organization and maintenance, yet that some of our ministers do not fully appreciate the weighty obligations which the doctrines of our Church and the teachings of the Holy Book impose upon them in this work. Of at least one hundred and thirteen ministers in charge of the churches in this Conference, only forty-three have reported Sunday-schools at all. We fear that this fact is evidence of negligence on the part of some in this most interesting branch of ministerial labor. That pastor whose church is without a Sunday-school, nurses a tree that bears no fruit, whose kind is destined to extermination at the end of the first generation. If we, as husbandmen, desire the vineyard of our Lord to be kept full of flourishing and fruitful vines, we cannot—we must not neglect the nursery, from which alone reliable and hopeful scions can be transplanted. That Church which neglects the care and moral culture of her children, must dwindle in numbers, and decline in power, wherever it comes into competition with a Church that believes and asks upon the faith that even little children should be brought unto Christ, because of such is the kingdom of heaven. This is indeed, of all fields of labor, the most promising. "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." But, "can the Ethiopian change his

skin, or the leopard his spots? Then may he learn to do well who has been accustomed to do evil."

The annual statistics show 85 schools, 80 superintendents, 334 teachers, 3,041 scholars, 6,760 volumes in libraries, and $403.00 collected for Sunday-school purposes.

In view of the above considerations, we offer the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That we, as ministers, should use all due care to retain babtized children as members of our Church.

Resolved, 2. That we will be diligent and faithful in establishing Sunday-schools for colored children wherever practicable, and that we will solicit the coöperation of the white membership of our charges in this work.

Resolved, 3. That we should awake to double energy in organizing and maintaining Sunday-schools in connection with our several pastoral duties.

Resolved, 4. That in view of the great importance of the Sunday-school cause in all its bearings, we respectfully recommend our presiding Bishop to appoint Rev. C. K. Marshall, General Sunday-school Agent for the Mississippi Conference, that he may, if practicable, put in operation such instrumentalities as may arouse the Church to the great interests involved in the proper edification of these nurseries of youthful piety.

WM. L. HUNNICUTT, Ch'n.

Q. 19. What amounts are necessary for the superannuated preachers, and the widows and orphans of preachers, and to make up the deficiences of those who have not obtained their regular allowance in their respective districts, circuits, and stations?

Q. 20. What has been collected on the foregoing accounts, and how has it been applied?

REPORT ON FINANCES.

We, the undersigned Committee, appointed by your body, would beg leave to make the following report:

The collections upon the District for Missions, superannuated preachers, and "Bishops' fund," are below the receipts of last year, and far below the pressing demands of the poor and dependent who look to us for bread.

The amount collected for the "Bishops' fund" is only $839, and the claim about $1,400, one-half our apportionment. The claims of those who have worn themselves out, and of the widows and orphans of those dying in the service of the Church, though small and meagre, the claim is $5,000. Of that, only one-third can be paid from the funds placed in our hands. How are our widows and orphans to be supported? The *poor* of the Conference, to whom are they to look? To the future world, while in this they starve! How can our people excuse themselves from a cheerful and liberal response to the highest appeals of benevolence and charity—the one most prominently set forth in the Bible—the cause of the widow and orphan? They are poor; they are widows and orphans from service, sacrifice, and toil in the noblest cause; they are our poor, and are poorly fed.

We find from reports to the Conference, that the assessment for

ministerial support is diminished, and only one-third collected. The financial condition of our fields of labor are discouraging, and a great injury to the full and untrammeled cause of the gospel will result. The ministry must be supported, either by the Church, or by a partial devotion of time to secular labor.

The Church is able and willing, if instructed, to support the ministry.

To increase our receipts and pay the poor, we would respectfully recommend the following resolutions:

Resolution 1. That the Presiding Elders take up a collection for those dependent upon us, and the "Bishops' fund," at every Quarterly Meeting held on their several Districts.

Resolution 2. That a sermon on GIVING be preached at every appointment by the pastor.

Resolution 3. That from every Board of Stewards, one be appointed as general superintendent of finances. W. G. MILLSAPS, Ch'n.

The funds paid in were distributed as follows, viz., Sister Curtiss, $50; Sister Thornton, $50; Sister Nash, $50; Sister Wiggins, $86; Sister Campbell and children, $66; Sister Jno. C. Johnson, $50; Sister Fly's children, $21; Sister Morris, $50; Sister Payne, $50; Brother Byrd, $100; Sister Dickinson and children, $73; Sister Sims and children, $76; Sister V. Johnson and child, $71; Hardy Mullins, $50; Jno. G. Jones, $5.25; Jno. G. Deskin, $109.20; Sister Haynie, $50; Sister Watson, $50; Sister Drake, $50; Sister Light, $50; Sister Rogers's children, $48; Geo. T. Vickers, $50; to the Bishops' fund, $839.

Q. 21. What has been contributed for the Missionary and Tract Societies?

REPORT ON MISSIONS.

The Committee on Missions have had under consideration the Foreign and Domestic Missions, and submit the following report:

Four years of terrible war separated us from our Foreign Missions, preventing our communication with them, and contributions to them to a very great extent. Since the restoration of peace, our land has been so impoverished, that the people have not felt able more than to support the gospel at home, and in many places they have not been able to do that; so that, in some circuits, ministers have been compelled to follow the plow during the week, in order that they might fill the pulpit on Sabbaths—thus imitating Paul, the tent-maker. Yet, notwithstanding these formidable difficulties, something has been accomplished in the Foreign Mission fields. Some of our missionaries heroically remained at their post of duty, though for four long years cut off from communication with our Church at home.

Our own noble and beloved brother, J. W. Lambuth, through many difficulties, fired by an unquenchable missionary zeal, returned to China in 1863, since which time he has been laboring, not without success and encouragement, part of the time supporting himself and heroic wife by the labor of his own hands.

Who can think of these devoted, self-sacrificing brethren and their noble wives, without feeling a thrill of admiration for them, and

breathing the earnest prayer that their number may be multiplied? A letter has been recently received from Brother Lambuth, asking that in view of the failure of his health, in consequence of the climate of Shanghai, that he be transferred to California, to labor among the Chinese there. He believes there is an effectual door among that people, and missionary efforts made there will react on their native land, and, notwithstanding other failures in that field, and the opposition to such a step made in high places, your committee, with all the lights before them, recommend the transfer of Rev. J. W. Lambuth to the California Mission.

There are many other fields of missionary labor white to the harvest, to which we would like to direct your attention and effort at this time, but from which we are restrained by the anomalous and peculiar condition of the finances of this section of country. But while we cannot at once accomplish all a broad Christian philanthropy would dictate and desire, we do most earnestly recommend upon all our ministerial brethren to keep the Foreign Missions prominently and constantly before the minds of our people, and by all suitable means cherish missionary zeal until these calamities be over past.

With regard to the Domestic Missions, we most cordially recommend the continuance of the German Mission: we have a small but interesting field in this department of our mission work, and one missionary, Rev. Auguste Gottschall, who, however, has not been able to accomplish much this year, from the fact that the Missionary Board could not support him, and he has been kept close and hard at work to support his family. This Mission, however, is increasing in importance, and will very soon assume proportions calling loudly for prompt and energetic action on the part of the Church of God. It must be evident to even a casual observer, that Mississippi must have cultivators of her rich soil other than those we have hitherto relied on. These fertile, but now abandoned fields, located in a climate so genial, will not long remain untenanted.

Already the German mind has perceived the adaptation of this country to their wants, and recently we learn that several families have settled in one community; and this is but one instance that will occur in many other places; and it behooves us to provide for and take charge of the spiritual instruction of this interesting and important class of population, in the providence of God placed in our midst.

There is another class of producers among us, who were always interesting to us in a religious point of view, and are now doubly so. When slaves, we used to feel called upon to provide for their spiritual wants, and did provide for them with a liberality unsurpassed toward any working class in the world. Why should we neglect them now, when, in point of fact, our interest and well-being are more involved in their proper religious and mental training than when they were in a state of slavery? Why turn them over to the tender mercies of those who neither understand their nature or their wants?

We feel assured that there is no disposition either to neglect their training, or shift the responsibility on others, by those who were their former friends and owners. But the question is how, in their new and changed relation, can they be best provided for? It must be evident to

the most casual observer that the old plan of involuntary provision for them will not answer. They feel that it is not of their own choice, and hence, the first opportunity which presents itself, they set up for themselves, though in doing so they go away from their best friends. Now how is this difficulty to be met? By letting them alone and holding ourselves aloof from them? We think not, but advise the *wise* provision of the last General Conference, to be found on the 106th page of our new Discipline.

If they want to remain with us or return to us, let us make provision for their so doing, but not on the old plan that it is to cost them nothing, but let all our operations among them, as far as possible, be self-sustaining, whether the laborers employed among them be white or colored—thus appealing to a lever power within themselves by which to elevate them—namely, self-reliance; and to carry out this view, we recommend the adoption of the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That we encourage and help the colored people to build churches, and establish schools for themselves, within our own ecclesiastical organization, and that we recommend Southern men and women to engage in instructing them.

Of money collected for the present year, we report as follows:

For old Missionary debt, $198.30; for Foreign Missions, $231.10; for Domestic Missions, $280.55. Total, $709.95.

The Committee on Missions beg leave to report farther, that they have had under consideration the action of the last General Conference, whereby the Missionary Society was substituted by two Boards—the one *Foreign*, and the other *Domestic*—and they beg leave to submit to the Mississippi Conference, to adopt, the following report and constitution, viz:

CONSTITUTION OF THE BOARD OF DOMESTIC MISSIONS OF THE MISSISSIPPI CONFERENCE.

Art. 1. This Board shall be denominated and known as the Board of Domestic Missions of the Mississippi Annual Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Art. 2. The object of this Board is to coöperate with the parent Missionary Board of the M. E. Church, South, in support of Missions, especially within the territory occupied by this Conference.

Art. 3. The officers of this Board shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Treasurer, Secretary, and nine Managers, who shall be chosen annually by the Mississippi Conference. The Managers shall consist of five members of the Conference, and four laymen.

In case of vacancy by death, or resignation, or otherwise, the Board shall fill such vacancy, subject to confirmation by the Conference. Five members shall constitute a quorum.

Art. 4. The President, and in his absence, the Vice-President, shall preside at all meetings of the Board; or, in the absence of both, the Board shall elect a President, *pro tem.*

Art. 5. The Treasurer shall take charge of all the funds and property of the Board, subject to the order of the Board, and shall make an accurate and full report, annually, of all the receipts and disbursements of the Board to the Mississippi Annual Conference.

Art. 6. The Secretary shall keep a full and complete record of the proceedings of the Board.

Art. 7. It shall be the duty of each preacher in charge, in the beginning of the Conference-year, to enroll in a book provided for that special purpose, the names of all the members of his charge, and enter in said book the amount of money each one is willing to contribute to the Missionary cause, and to collect the same as early as possible, giving due credit, and remit the same so collected quarterly to the Treasurer of the Board.

Art. 8. Each preacher in charge shall take up a collection annually in support of Foreign Missions, and transmit the amount so collected to the parent Board of Domestic or Foreign Missions, and report the same to this Board.

Art. 9. One-tenth of all the collections made for Domestic Missions, with the balance on hand after meeting the appropriations in our own Conference, shall be transmitted to the Treasurer of the parent Board, to be appropriated as the Discipline directs.

Art. 10. There shall be a public annual meeting of the Board, at the time and place of the session of the Annual Conference, in aid of Missions.

The Committee recommend the adoption of the following resolution, viz:

Resolved, That we will use our utmost endeavors to collect, at as early a day as possible, our proportion of the old Missionary debt, as assessed by the late General Conference.

J. L. FORSYTH,
WM. F. CAMP,
JOHN A. B JONES.

Officers of the Auxiliary Missionary Board.—J. L. Forsyth, President; H. F. Johnson, Vice-President; W. H. Watkins, Treasurer; H. J. Harris, Secretary. *Managers.*—Ministers: H. H. Montgomery, C. G. Andrews, Wm. Price, W. G. Millsaps; Laymen: J. E. Watts, Jno. McVea, Green Millsaps, R. A. Anderson.

REPORT ON CHURCH PUBLICATIONS.

The Committee on Church Publications beg leave to submit the following report:

First, *The Publishing House.* The annual exhibit of the Book Agent, made June 1st, 1866, has been duly considered.

This is the first official information this Conference has received from the Publishing House since the Conference of 1861.

In April, 1862, the real estate and fixtures of the House were libeled for confiscation in the United States Circuit Court in Tennessee, and they went immediately into the hands of the United States Marshal. The Financial Secretary of the House, then in charge of it, fortunately, but unexpectedly, found himself clothed with legal authority from the General Conference, which enabled him to employ the property and conduct the suit against the Government for its recovery. This suit was terminated in favor of the Church at the very time of the session of this Conference last year. During this period of three and a half years, the property was partially protected from spoliation and loss by army depredations and otherwise, by the Financial Secretary; and we congratu-

late the Church, that through the merciful interposition of Divine Providence, amidst the disasters of war, we still have a Publishing House.

The Agent reports a certain loss in the conduct of the business before the war of $60,698.00, and a farther loss of the most of $112,856.15 in bad debts. But notwithstanding these and some other losses not definitely ascertained, resulting from the use of the printing office by the army and other spoliations, we are glad to learn that the House is in operation, and as the Agent thinks, with a prospect of a good business in the future.

The Agent reports the available property of the House, including every thing, over and above the debts due, at $87,165.70, not including such debts outstanding as may hereafter be collected, and also exclusive of an unadjusted and unliquidated debt, justly due the House by the Government of the United States, and which could not be fairly estimated at less than $10,000, as we are well informed.

The future prosperity of the House, however, will depend upon the patronage it shall receive from the Church and public. It is one thing to have a Publishing House and make books, but it is another to distribute this literature throughout the Church and country, that religion and morality may be advanced thereby.

Second, *The Christian Advocate*, published at Nashville, by the Publishing House, under the control of Dr. Summers, is in full operation. It is a large and beautiful sheet, with a secular department in an extra, and in every respect is a first-class Methodist paper. Its literature is of the highest stamp; its central position gives it high and peculiar claims upon the patronage of the whole Church, and undoubtedly does, and will continue, to contain much information, which would not be so suitable in a mere local Conference publication.

Third, *The Sunday-school Visitor*. We congratulate the Church on the information from the Book Agent, that this valuable periodical will soon reappear amongst us. Its value to families and Sunday-schools is too great to be estimated, and we hope it will soon be circulated in every Sunday-school and family within our reach.

Fourth, *The N. O. Christian Advocate*. This is one of our own papers, published in our immediate vicinity, is the recognized organ of this Conference, is well known to all of us, and ought to have a far wider circulation than it has received. We hope to see the paper enlarged, and that it may continue to maintain its conservative, religious, and literary character.

Fifthly. We beg leave to bring to the favorable notice of the Conference the *Home Monthly*, edited and published at the Publishing House in Nashville, by the Rev. F. R. Hill and Professor A. B. Stark. This Monthly is virtually in the room of the *Home Circle*, formerly published by the Book Agent. It is at present a private enterprise; but, if sufficiently successful, it is expected, at no very distant day, to pass into the hands of the Book Agent. It is a fine ladies' book, well and truthfully edited, and highly worthy the patronage of the families of the Church.

In addition to the above, we are glad to learn that in various parts of

the country, we have weekly newspapers in the interests of our Church, in successful operation, and which are wielding a good and healthful influence.

And we further report to the Conference, for its adoption, the following resolution:

Resolved, That it is the duty of every member of this Conference to use his industry and diligence to put into wide circulation the literature of our Publishing House, and the periodicals named in the above report.

R. ABBEY, Ch'n.

THE COMMITTEE ON BIBLE CAUSE.

Your Committee have not in their possession any statistics or other information of the operations of any Bible Society. From the general condition of the country, the limited efforts made now for the distribution of the Scriptures amongst our people, and the obscurity and poverty of many districts of the country, we fear that many families are without a copy of the Bible. We do not hesitate to express our belief that to supply such destitution is a work of the first importance, and should engage our active energy and special attention. We rejoice that the present posture of the affairs of the nations seems to promise a far greater tolerance of religious liberty, and to that extent offers a widening field for the dissemination of the precious word of life. We are confident from the promises of our Lord, that his knowledge shall cover the earth as the water covers the sea, and that the nations of the earth shall be given to our Lord and to his Christ. Some of the European governments that had long proscribed religious liberty, have now opened the way to the operation of all evangelical churches. We believe that these are evidences of the Saviour's presence in his Church, and for her we should invigorate and increase our efforts to occupy every field. We offer for your adoption these resolutions, viz:

1st. That we give grateful thanks to the great Redeemer for the evidences found in the national revolutions of this age, that the nations of the earth are coming to his knowledge.

2d. That we think it would be highly satisfactory to this Conference, and a valuable contribution to those who may be engaged in distributing the Scriptures, if the preachers in charge throughout the Conference would, during the ensuing Conference-year, ascertain as far as they can, the families in their respective works who are destitute of the word of God, and report them to some person to be named by this Conference, or to some existing agent of the South-western Bible Society at New Orleans.

3d. That we cannot allow ourselves to abate our interest or energy in the specific work of distributing the word of God, but that we will occupy every field that may open itself to us.

4th. That we, as heretofore, fully recognize the value of the American Bible Society in furtherance of the great Redeemer's Kingdom, and that we will in every proper way coöperate with that Society.

W. T. J. SULLIVAN, Ch'n.

COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION.—REPORT No. 1.

The cause of education, we are gratified to state, still receives the attention of the Church, although, as may be seen from the statistics we have obtained, our zeal in behalf of this cause is by no means commensurate with the importance of the subject. The founders of our Zion were among the most eminent patrons of learning. They recognized at an early period the relations of intelligence to true piety. In imitation of their noble example, their successors have endeavored to keep pace with the march of civilization and the progressive spirit of the age. Still, much remains to be done; and there is just cause for humiliation, when we reflect how much of the Lord's money that might have been judiciously expended to promote the cause of education, has been withheld or squandered. If it were possible to reach the hearts of our people, and make them *feel* as many profess to *think* in regard to the great educational enterprise, we could hope to accomplish a vast deal more than has been effected thus far by those Annual Reports. In order to impress the general mind as it ought to be, it is highly necessary that each preacher should feel himself obligated to do all that in him is for the upbuilding of our literary institutions. Heretofore, only a few men felt sufficient interest in the matter of general education, to prompt them to every reasonable effort. Now, it is emphatically true that we must provide ways and means to educate the children of our people at home. We have theorized much on the subject of home education. The time has come for action—for united, vigorous effort.

The Committee would present the condition and claims of the several schools and academies under the patronage of the Conference, that have made any communication to this body.

Centenary College, of Louisiana.—This noble institution is located at Jackson, La., and is the joint property of the Mississippi and Louisiana Conferences. Previous to the war, Centenary College held high position among the literary institutions of the South, numbering as high as 250 students. It was officered with an efficient corps of professors, and was doing a great and good work. The Alumni of this College were fast filling up the ranks of our ministry, and were occupying enviable position in the various departments of society. The war came, and many of the young men of Centenary College entered the army. Not a few of them yielded up their lives in defense of their country. The almost universal bankruptcy of the country has been fatal to the College, causing the loss of a great portion of its assets, in the form of bills receivable, and leaving it with a large debt due to professors and others, amounting to nearly $30,000, with no available means to pay. In this condition the first Board of Trustees and Visitors found the College at their annual meeting in July last. Notwithstanding the difficulties, the organization of the College has been kept up during the last five years, though the exercises were only of preparatory character. At the meeting of the Joint Board, in July last, measures were adopted whereby the College was relieved from embarrassment, reörganized, and has started out again on its glorious mission to bless the Church and the world. We would fail to do justice, if we passed unnoticed in this

report, the fidelity and generosity of the Faculty, who have devoted themselves so long and so earnestly to the interests of the College. Most of the debt of the College was due to these men, who had not only toiled without pay, but some had even advanced from their private means, to the amount of thousands of dollars, to sustain this Institution, and with it the honor of this Conference. Those generous Christian men agreed to cancel their claims upon condition of a transfer of the very uncertain assets of the College, or so much thereof as would pay them, and they have taken the risk of collecting, assisted by the President of the College. Thus much they have done to relieve Centenary College from embarrassment. We have lost a valuable and most indefatigable man from the Presidency of the College, in the resignation of Rev. J. C. Miller. But we are gratified to be able to state that his place has been filled by one altogether worthy of our confidence, and under whose auspices we may hope to see our cherished institution prosper gloriously, viz., Rev. W. H. Watkins, D.D. Rev. Dr. Keener, of Louisiana Conference, is President of the Joint Board of Trustees and Visitors. Each of their names is a tower of strength in the Conference to which he belongs. With united effort, under the lead of these men, *we can, we will succeed*, in this great enterprise, God helping us. There are now about sixty students at Centenary College, and the number increasing weekly. The sons of preachers are educated there free of charge. Now what is wanting at Centenary College is, first, means to secure some necessary repairs to the buildings, which have suffered materially during the last five years; secondly, we need an endowment at least adequate to one-half, if not the whole, of the salaries of a Faculty of eight professors.

SHARON FEMALE COLLEGE still lives, and from the exhibit made to this Conference, by the Trustees and the report of the Visiting Committee, is in a more prosperous condition than for many years past. This College, with land, tenements, etc., is the property of the Mississippi Annual Conference. We rejoice to know that under the Presidency of Rev. S. D. Aiken, and with the persistent energies of a few preachers who stood by the College through all the trials it has endured, still devoted to their work, it is now on a highway of usefulness. Sharon Female College is the only denominational school, north of Jackson, within the bounds of our Conference, and certainly ought to receive a liberal support. The course of study in Sharon Female College is ample—perhaps the most comprehensive of any like institution in the country. We have assurance undoubted of the ability and fidelity of the Faculty, and we do most earnestly recommend this institution to the patronage of the public.

CLINTON (LA.) FEMALE SEMINARY.—The name of this Seminary determines its locality. Its geographical position, as well as other facts we shall mention, merit consideration, and justify your committee in recommending it to the patronage of your people. Although not officered and directed by the Conference, this Seminary is, if possible, more thoroughly Methodistic in its operations and influences than many of the schools which are regarded denominational. The Visiting Committee were most favorably impressed with the truly religious turn

given to the exercises of Clinton Female Seminary. Mrs. Sarah M. Wall and Mrs. Dunbar are associate principals. The former is the daughter of the lamented Winans. She has been long and favorably known as one of the most efficient and successful educators of her sex. The latter has had long experience as a teacher, and was well known in former years by many in this Conference as Miss Chapman, and associated with Brother Halsey, at Woodville, Miss., in a female academy at that place. These are truly both Christian ladies, devoted Methodists, and are laboring faithfully to improve the morals as well as enlighten the understanding of those committed to their care.

Woodville Female Seminary.—The Visiting Committee report that this Institute is doing a good work. "Because," say they, "the President, Brother W. T. J. Sullivan, is fully up to his calling as an educator of youth, giving to his work the importance which religious duty demands. He and his assistants seem to us to have entered fully into the spirit of their mission, and are making the institution worthy of public confidence. The Academy buildings are well arranged, and the whole economy of the establishment made a most favorable impression. During the session closing in July, there were fifty young ladies in attendance. There are now sixty-four. It is a Methodist school, where bigotry is excluded, but the predominating religious influence is favorable to the doctrines and usages of our Church"

Port Gibson Collegiate Academy.—This institution was for some time past exclusively for females. Now it is a mixed school. The report of the Visiting Committee presents the following exhibit of its condition, and we will only add that the facts given are a sufficient warrant for us to recommend this Academy to those who have sons and daughters to educate. The Visiting Committee say:

"We are glad to report the Port Gibson Collegiate Academy at this time in a prosperous and growing condition—numbers over one hundred students—about forty males, and seventy females. Mr. A. J. Wright, the President, is a competent, conscientious, and enthusiastic instructor, and has associated with him a full corps of teachers. At the last annual examination, classes were thoroughly examined in all the branches pursued by each student, and your committee were satisfied with the proficiency of the scholars, and with the manner in which they had been taught."

Madison College was reöpened on the first Monday of October last, under the Presidency of Rev. H. F. Johnson, assisted by a competent corps of professors. There are fifty-two students in attendance, and it is expected the number will be considerably increased after the Christmas holidays. One young man connected with the College, is being educated for the ministry in our Church. The Trustees have resolved to afford tuition gratis to indigent sons of deceased soldiers, and they extend the like privilege to young men preparing for the ministry, without regard to denomination. They also intend, so soon as they can relieve the College of some slight embarrassments, to tender the whole property to the Mississippi Conference. They desire the appointment of Rev. H. F. Johnson to the Presidency, and also the appointment of a Visiting

Committee. This College is located at Sharon, Madison county, Miss, and was once presided over by Rev. T. C. Thornton. Although not a denominational school, it has rendered great services to the Church in other days. There are witnesses now among our ministry. We hope to see it prosper, and recommend compliance with the request of the Trustees.

We deem it advisable, as far as it can be done consistently with the interest of the Church in other departments, to encourage our brethren of the ministry to continue in the work of educating the youth of our country. Some may be successful in the work of converting sinners. Others may be equally so in raising up Christians. Let each, in the fear of God, do with "all his might whatsoever his hand findeth to do."

It is proposed by the Mobile Conference to coöperate with this Conference in the establishment of a Female College, to be under their joint patronage, at some point on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad. The Mobile Conference propose that a committee of three be appointed by this body to act with their committee on this subject, in the recess of the two Conferences, and that their action shall be subject to the future action of said Conferences. It is not proposed to take steps at this Conference to carry out this design, and we can only therefore recommend the appointment of said committee, to consider, etc. We would nominate on said committee, W. L. C. Hunnicutt, B. B. Whittington, and James English.

H. J. HARRIS, Ch'n.

REPORT ON THE EDUCATION OF SOLDIERS' ORPHANS.

Respected Brethren:—At the last session of your body, you were pleased to pass a resolution requesting me to digest and issue a circular, with a plan for the support and education of the orphans of the deceased and disabled soldiers of the late war. The subject has been one of intense and constant solicitude to me, but I have not deemed any moment so favorable as at the Conference, for speaking on this subject. The matter is one of the highest importance, and if we neglect these dependent children, the censures of mankind will rest upon us. Much has already been done, but we must do more, and do it at once. We have, as a Conference, considered orphans' houses and asylums of questionable value, in a country devoted to agriculture like ours, where homes and useful employment may easily be found for those old enough to work.

Provision for board and support of infants can easily be made by organized societies in every county, and all who are capable of going to school can be sent at the expense of an "Orphan's League," if some such association were formed, and books, clothing, medicine, and other incidental expenses paid for them. The children would then be able to aid their parents, relatives, or families with whom they live, and they would grow up with habits of industry and self-reliance, and a higher enjoyment of life than can ever be found in any orphan asylum.

It is not improbable but that the Legislature may make some appro-

priation for the sustentation of the orphans of the State; if so, it would probably be divided to the counties in proportion to the number of orphans, and the ratio of funds raised in each county, to be employed jointly for the orphans' relief. Should this be done, it will need many local organizations to carry out the plan. Every district, every town, and every large neighborhood in the several counties, ought to have an orphan's association or league; and clothes, books, funds provided by them. A few good women would carry out the plan, if once inaugurated. I therefore recommend the passage of the following resolutions:

Resolved, 1. That Presiding Elders take charge of the matter in their respective districts, calling to their aid the preachers in their districts, and such laymen as they can enlist. They may, if expedient, form District Societies, and shall provide for the needy orphans of deceased soldiers, and the children of disabled and indigent ones, looking especially to their education in the schools near their homes.

Resolved, 2. That a Central Board, composed of five Laymen and five Ministers, who shall supervise and control the general organizations, to be appointed by this Conference, one of whom may act as the general superintendent of the orphans' interests.

Resolved, 3. That every preacher in charge of pastoral work be, and hereby is, requested to bring this subject prominently before the Church Meeting in his charge. Respectfully, C. K. MARSHALL.

Central Board Education Soldiers' Orphans.—Laymen: J. W. Vick, Dr. J. M. Martin, Dr. W. B. Harvey, Governor B. G. Humphreys, O. J. Moore; Ministers: W. L. C. Hunnicutt, W. F. Camp, C. G. Andrews, C. K. Marshall, R. Abbey.

REPORT ON THE PURCHASE OF WHITWORTH COLLEGE.

Your Committee has ascertained, first, that the suit will be withdrawn and the property released, upon the payment of one thousand dollars to Rev. H. J. Harris, and the settlement of the fees which have accrued to lawyers.

Second, That the Rev. J. M. Whitworth will deed the property to a Board of Trustees, for the use of the M. E. Church, South; provided the College (retains its name) is continued to be used for school purposes, and allows him the perpetual right of the tuition of two pupils, and pays him the sum of one thousand dollars.

Your Committee recommend: first, that both these propositions be accepted; secondly, that a Board of Trustees be at once appointed to receive the property; thirdly, that the Presiding Elder of the Brookhaven District be appointed Agent for the College, during the year to come, with instructions to solicit and receive donations to pay off these claims, and to put the buildings in repair. BENJ. JONES, Ch'n.

In obedience to the above petition, the following brethren were appointed:

Trustees Whitworth Female College.—Dr. J. M. Martin, W. G. Millsaps, Capt. Hoskins, B. Jones, R. M. Millsaps, A. B. Nicholson, T. H. Thompson, B. A. Beasor.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON VICKSBURG DEPOSITORY.

The Committee appointed by the last Annual Conference, which met at Lexington, Miss., to inquire into the Book and Tract Depository, have had the matter under consideration, and beg leave to make the following report, viz:

When the Federal army attacked the city of Vicksburg, in May, 1862, the whole stock of books, stationery, and store fixtures were placed in the upper room of a large brick house in that place.

The accounts, notes, business correspondence, and books, were all deposited by the undersigned agent, with his private papers, in the Court-House, when he left with his family, to escape from the siege then threatened.

After the city had surrendered to the Federal army, the agent visited the place to protect, if possible, his own property, and that of the depository. He then found that all was either destroyed, removed, or appropriated to the uses of the powers in authority there.

The assets were, as far as recollected—

Books, stationery, and store fixtures	$10,000
Debts due, (some unsettled and disputed)	5,000
Cash loaned Rev. W. Harrington	1,800
Cash invested in bonds, (Confederate)	1,300
Due agent, and retained	1,500
Total	$19,600

The Chaplain of the Federal army, Rev. W. Warren, states that the books were in good condition when captured, and thinks that A. Mygatt claimed ownership of them, and gave them to the Christian Commission of the army: this can be proven doubtless, and that they were carried away as trophies of the surrender of the city of Vicksburg, on the 4th of July, 1863, by individuals of the army, to send to their friends at home.

The notes, accounts, and Confederate bonds are all lost, supposed to be destroyed when the order was given to remove the contents of the desk, in order that the army officer could use it.

The amount loaned Rev. W. Harrington was so disposed of to invest Confederate money in something that would be secure, and return interest. The bonds (one of $1,000 and three of $100 each) were bought at the suggestion of the President, Wm. Crutcher, Esq.

The cash on hand was retained, as being the amount which would be allowed to the clerks and agent, for services for about fifteen months. There had been no meeting of the Board for more than a year when the loss occurred.

Money was offered to the agent during the war, but declined, as he had no purpose to which he could appropriate it, no debts to pay, nor could books be bought.

The agent will not collect from any one now, as he knows of no use to which he could appropriate it. All of which is respectfully submitted.

E. G. Cook, Agent of Depository.
W. F. Camp, Ch'n.

On motion, William Crutcher, E. G. Cook, and J. W. Vick were appointed a committee to look into the condition of the Book and Tract Depository at Vicksburg, and were invested with plenary powers for the settlement of all matters pertaining to the said Depository, and were requested to report at next Conference.

METHODIST PROTESTANT CHURCH.

Rev. Levi Pearce made a verbal report in behalf of Rev. P. M. Napier, Fraternal Messenger from the Methodist Protestant Conference, who could not be present here. The report was favorable to the maintenance of the amicable relations heretofore existing between that Church and ours.

The Conference resolved to receive the report, and to appoint Rev. Levi Pearce Fraternal Messenger to the ensuing session of the Methodist Protestant Conference, to assemble at Seniasha.

CHANGE OF NAME.

The vote of the Conference upon the proposition of the General Conference to change the name of our Church to *Episcopal Methodist Church*, stood—ayes, thirty-six; noes, fifty-two.

LAY-DELEGATION.

The vote on the question of Lay-Delegation, submitted by the late General Conference, stood—ayes, thirty-two; noes, forty-five.

JOINT BOARD OF FINANCE.

Ministers.—W. P. Barton, W. G. Millsaps, R J. Jones, B. B. Whittington, H. F. Johnson, W. W. Drake, W. B. Hines, Jas. English, C. R. Godfrey, J. A. B. Jones. *Laymen.*—Samuel Gillespie, Joab Bowen, M. J. Whitworth, E. N. Talley, E. G. Cook, Jno. W. Vick, Joab Scarborough, J. B. Greaves, W. A. Moore, Jno. H. Thompson.

VISITING COMMITTEES.

Port Gibson Collegiate Academy.—G. H. Clinton, J. A. B. Jones, C. Chamberlin.

Centenary College.—J. L. Forsyth, C. G. Andrews, H. H. Montgomery.

Woodville Female Seminary.—W. E. M. Linfield, J. Carr, P. Lane.

Clinton Female College.—W. B. Hines, H. J. Harris, J. A. Godfrey.

Madison College.—J. M. Pugh, W. F. Glenn, W. L. C. Hunnicutt.

Sharon Female College.—W. F. Camp, W. Harrington, R. Abbey.

Whitworth Female College.—W. G. Millsaps, A. B. Nicholson, G. H. Clinton.

THE JACKSON METHODIST.

The Committee appointed to reply to a communication from the Publishers of the Jackson Methodist, report that they are pleased to see a paper which presents so agreeable an appearance; and appreciate the worthy motives which have prompted so active an effort in behalf of Methodist interests in this Conference.

We congratulate the Methodist on every impulse it may give to the spiritual culture of our people. We shall be gratified if we shall see in it an instrument sanctified and mighty, for the overthrow of sin and corruption, and the establishment of truth and purity in our social body.

We are not satisfied that it is within our province to recommend the appointment of an editor; and, therefore, prefer to leave that matter with the proper authority.

We respectfully offer this resolution, viz:

Resolved, That we commend the zeal and enterprise of the publishers of the Jackson Methodist, and that we will, as individuals, lend it all the support we can, consistently with our obligations to our adopted organ.

W. T. J. SULLIVAN, Ch'n.

REPLY TO THE NATCHEZ QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

To our Christian Brethren in the City of Natchez, Miss.: We, the undersigned Committee, have been authorized to send to you the Christian greeting of the Mississippi Annual Conference, and express to you their profound regret that any misunderstanding occurred in relation to the holding of this session of the Body in your city; and to further say, that it shall be their pleasure to visit your city, and hold a session of our Body at some future day among you, and partake of those generous hospitalities for which your Church and community have ever been distinguished.

J. J. JONES, Ch'n.

COMMITTEES OF EXAMINATION.

On Candidates for Admission.—R. Abbey, J. G. Jones, T. Nixon.
First Year.—J. L. Forsyth, S. D. Akin, J. M. Pugh.
Second Year.—H. F. Johnson, C. G. Andrews, W. P. Barton.
Third Year.—B. Jones, W. Harrington, W. L. C. Hunnicutt.
Fourth Year.—H. H. Montgomery, J. A. Godfrey, W. T. J. Sullivan.

ADELAIDE GEVEN DONATION.

Rev. L. Pearce reported that the funds of this donation had been loaned to Rev. J. Nicholson, who has paid $30 of the interest, which is now on hand. The Conference ordered that the interest accruing during the war should be remitted. The $30 collected was appropriated to the education of a daughter of Sister Wiggins.

VAN HOUTEN BEQUEST FUND.

The Treasurer reported that he had collected $150 on this fund, and had paid it to the Committee on Finance. Conference instructed the Treasurer to collect the whole amount of the fund, and report at the next Conference.

RAWLS DONATION.

The Treasurer of the Rawls Donation reported as follows, viz: He has not been able to collect any interest on this fund since the year 1860, nor does he know when he can collect any. The note for the principal has been in the hands of an attorney, to proceed with as he may think fit for our interest. H. H. MONTGOMERY, Treas.

RESOLUTION ON DANCING.

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Conference that dancing, either in private families or public places, is contrary to the General Rule on Diversions, and should therefore be discouraged by all of us, and that the General Rule be enforced prudently and firmly.

WM. B. HINES, Ch'n.

ESSAY ON CALL TO THE MINISTRY.

WHEREAS, we understand that Rev. R. Abbey has written an essay on "The Divine Call to the Ministry;" therefore, be it

Resolved, That we request our Book Agent at Nashville to publish the same, if the Book Editor should think that its publication would be advantageous to the Church. H. H. MONTGOMERY.

BISHOP SOULE.

Resolved, That this Conference entertains the warmest feelings of brotherly affection for our very venerable Senior Superintendent, Bishop Soule. And we hereby, with one heart and one voice, give to him this expression of our sympathy and greeting, praying Almighty God that his largest blessings and richest grace may descend upon him in his great infirmity and rapidly declining days.

REV. R. ABBEY.

Resolved, That we recognize our respected Brother, Rev. R. Abbey, as the protector of the property of the M. E. Church, South, in the city of Nashville, during the late war; and that but for his unremitting and wise effort, we believe that all the movable property would have been lost. That for these efficient and valuable services, our heart-felt thanks be and are hereby tendered him.

CONFERENCE SERMON.

Rev. R. Abbey was appointed to preach the Conference Sermon next year, at 3 P.M., on Sabbath. Alternate, Rev. Thos. Nixon.

PUBLISHING COMMITTEE.

The Secretary and Assistant were appointed a Committee to have the Minutes of the present session published; and they were authorized to draw on the Presiding Elders for the amount necessary, if they could not raise it otherwise.

The city of Natchez was chosen as the place of holding the next session of Conference.

RESOLUTIONS OF THANKS.

Resolved, That we hereby return to Rev. M. J. Whitworth our sincere thanks for the liberal tender which he has made of Whitworth College to this Conference.

Resolved, That we hereby tender our thanks to the citizens of Brookhaven, for their generous hospitality; to the New Orleans and Jackson Railroad, for their courtesy in transporting our members at half-price; to the pastor and members of the Presbyterian Church, for the use of their house of worship during our session; and to the Masons for the use of their lodge-room.

APPOINTMENTS OF THE MISSISSIPPI ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

NATCHEZ DISTRICT.

J. A. Godfrey, P. E.

Natchez, W. E. M. Linfield.
Kingston and Washington, Jos. Carr.
Percy's Creek and Buffalo, C. R. Godfrey.
Macedonia, C. N. Campbell.
Wilkinson, J. L. Forsyth; P. S. Petty, sup.
Bayou Sara and Plains, E. R. Strickland.
Woodville, P. Lane.
Woodville colored circuit, T. W. Brown.
Clinton and Jackson, La., Wm. B. Hines.
East Feliciana, W. E. Ballard; H. J. Harris, sup.
German Mission, Auguste Gottschall.
President of Centenary College, W. H. Watkins.
President of Woodville Female College, W. T. J. Sullivan.

VICKSBURG DISTRICT.

John H. Clinton, P. E.

Vicksburg, W. F. Camp.
Warren, F. X. Foster.
North Warren, to be supplied; J. H. Shelton, sup.
North Warren colored charge, J. W. Jones.
Raymond and Spring Ridge, John Lusk.
Terry and Forest Grove, A. M. Campbell.
Cayuga and colored charge, W. Wadsworth, P. A. Johnson.
Rocky Springs and colored charge, D. A. J. Parker, A. B. Stewart.
Steele Chapel and colored charge, C. T. French.
Burtonton and colored charge, R. T. Hennington.
Port Gibson, J. A. B. Jones.
Fayette, C. Chamberlin, W. B. Johnson.
Jefferson colored circuit, J. D. Willis.
Cole's Creek colored circuit, to be supplied.
Rodney colored charge, to be supplied.
General Sunday-school Agent, C. K. Marshall.

JACKSON DISTRICT.

R. Abbey, P. E.

Jackson, W. L. C. Hunnicutt.
Brownsville colored circuit, J. S. Harris.
Vernon, Livingston, and colored charge, W. F. Glenn.
Canton and colored charge, C. G. Andrews; H. Copeland, sup.
Sharon and Thornton's Chapel, H. F. Johnson.
Sharon colored circuit, N. B. Young.
Madisonville, L. Pearce; J. W. Adams, sup.
Camden, H. H. Montgomery, W. Harrington.
Camden colored circuit, J. K. Hamblin.
Carthage, J. A. Vance.
President Madison College, H. F. Johnson.

YAZOO DISTRICT.

J. M. Pugh, P. E.

Yazoo City and colored charge, E. H. Mounger.
Silver Creek and Bee Lake, to be supplied.
Yazoo Circuit and colored charge, W. B. Lewis.
Mt. Olivet and colored charge, G. D. Wade.
Richland and colored charge, T. M. Ward.
Lexington, H. Williamson.
Honey Island, W. P. Barton.
Lexington colored circuit, to be supplied by J. R. Booth.
Holmes and colored charge, T. C. Parrish.
Black Hawk and colored charge, J. D. Newsom.
Emory and colored charge, to be supplied by Stephen Johnson.
Carrollton and colored charge, G. W. Boyles.
Greenwood and Sidon, P. Howard.

GREENVILLE DISTRICT.

J. Maclennan, P. E.

Greenville and Lake Lee, W. W. Drake.
Greenville colored circuit, W. T. Ashford.

Deer Creek, S. E. Hale.
Bolivar, to be supplied.
Clover Hill and Leota, to be supplied.
Indian Bayou, I. B. Robertson.
Sunflower, T. W. Flowers.

STARKVILLE DISTRICT.

K. A. Jones, P. E.

Starkville, Pierce Chapel, and colored charge, R. J. Jones.
Octibbeha and colored charge, J. C. Woodward.
Webster and colored charge, George Jackson.
Louisville and colored charge, J. G. Carlisle.
Bankston and colored charge, W. R. Rainey.
Winona and colored charge, A. R. Hines.
Greensboro, T. W. Castles.
Line Creek and colored charge, to be supplied.

BRANDON DISTRICT.

B. B. Whittington, P. E.

Brandon, J. A. Willis.
Rankin colored charge, to be supplied by D. Laughlin.
Shiloh, William Price.
Fannier, F. M. Williams.
Trenton, Louis Kendall.
Forest and Hillsboro, to be supplied.
Garlandsville, J. D Hays.
Hickory, A. J. Smith.
Philadelphia, to be supplied.
Good Hope, E. M. Alford.

PAULDING DISTRICT.

J. English, P. E.

Paulding, J. Townsend.
Paulding colored charge, to be supplied.
Okohay, to be supplied.
Black Creek, to be supplied.
White Plains, W. W. Graves.
Handsboro, Biloxi, and colored charge, J. J Clark.
Columbia and colored charge, to be supplied by J. Stanford.
Gainesville and colored charge, to be supplied.
Mt. Carmel and colored charge, H. P. Lewis.
Rankin, W. W. Hurst.
Montrose, F. W. Sharbrough.

BROOKHAVEN DISTRICT.

W. G. Millsaps, P. E.

Crystal Springs, Thomas Nixon, J. W. McNeil, G. J. Mortimer, sup.
Crystal Springs colored charge, to be supplied.
Hazlehurst and colored charge, A. B. Nicholson.
Wesson and Beauregard, Benj. Jones.
Wesson colored charge, to be supplied.
Brookhaven, L. R. Redding.
Bayou Pierre, to be supplied.
Bayou Pierre colored circuit, to be supplied.
Scotland, E. A. Flowers, F. F. Mullins.
Scotland colored circuit, J. B. Bowen.
Meadville, W. Finn.
Holmesville and colored charge, H. D. Berry.
Pearl River, A. Day.
Bogue Chitto, P. E. Green.
President of Whitworth Female College, George F. Thompson.

ARCOLA DISTRICT.

J. Nicholson, P. E.

Arcola, R. B. Downer.
Amite and colored charge, R. A. Sibley, W. H. Germany.
Ponchatoula, to be supplied.
Greensburg, D. W. Dillehay.
St. Helena and colored charge, Thomas Price.
Magnolia, to be supplied.
East Baton Rouge, D. Merchant.
Franklinton, to be supplied.
Covington, to be supplied.
Chefuncta Mission, to be supplied.

Missionary to China, J. W. Lambuth.

Transferred to Texas Conference, Thos. W. Hines and L. Ercanbrack.
Transferred to Little Rock Conference, A. J. Wheat.

Left without an Appointment, C. A. McNeill.

Superannuated: J. G. Jones, J. H. Massey, J. I. E. Byrd, Thomas Clinton, P. James, H. Mullins, Thomas Owens, B. Pipkin, S. T. Swiney, G. T. Vickers, J. G. Deskin, R. D. Norsworthy, J. D. Higginbotham.

Located: J. C. Miller, J. W. McCrary, M. Cox, G. W. Alexander, N. S. Cornell.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL BOOKS.

NET CASH.

A. H. REDFORD, AGENT,

Southern Methodist Publishing House,

NASHVILLE, TENN.

We call the attention of our Preachers and People to the following list of Sunday-school Books. They will find it very complete. Orders filled promptly.

We offer for sale a large assortment of Sunday-school Books, expressly prepared by the Book Editor, Rev. Dr. SUMMERS, for the use of Sabbath-schools in the Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

The various SUNDAY-SCHOOL LIBRARIES comprise a collection of Books most admirably adapted to the instruction and edification of Sunday-school children—while many of them will be found to contain matter of high importance to teachers. It is believed that there exists nowhere a collection of books more suitable for the purpose of Sabbath-school instruction than these volumes, which are aptly described as "adapted to youth, and not unsuited to age."

OUR OWN PUBLICATIONS.

THE YOUNG PEOPLE'S LIBRARY, $90. This Library comprises 200 vols., 18mo., handsomely and uniformly bound in best English muslin, embossed with gilt backs.

LIBRARY NO. 2, $20. Comprising 50 vols., 18mo., bound in same style as Young People's Library.

LIBRARY NO. 3, $10. Comprising 25 vols., 18mo., bound in same style as Young People's Library.

LIBRARY NO. 4, $12. Comprising 30 vols., 18mo., half bound, morocco backs, and lettered.

LIBRARY NO. 5, $10. Comprising 50 vols., 18mo., half bound, morocco backs, and lettered.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL TEXT-BOOKS. Southern Methodist Primer, 60 cents per dozen; sent by mail, 75 cents. The Little Hymn Book, paper covers, 75 cents per dozen. Sunday-school Hymn Book, $3 per dozen. When sent by mail, 65 cents per dozen to be added.

Wesleyan Methodist Catechisms.

Part I., per dozen.....40 cents
Part II., per dozen.....75 cents
Part III., per dozen.....$1

CAPERS'S CATECHISMS.

Part I., per doz.....50 cts
Part II., per doz.....75 cts
Infant Manual, per doz.....40 cts

Questions on Genesis, by Rev. T. O. Summers, D.D., per doz.....$2 50

Scripture Catechism, by Rev. T. O. Summers, D.D.: Part I., per doz.....$2 50
Part II., per doz..... 2 50

Questions on the History, Biography, and Antiquity of the Bible, by T. T. Owen, $1 per doz.

Sunday-school Tickets and Rewards.

Step by Step—a beautifully embellished little Speller, per doz.....$2 50

Binney's Theological Compend, per doz. 4 50

All the above are our own Publications, and we do most earnestly commend them to our people.

We also keep constantly on hand a general assortment of Sunday-school Books of the American Sunday-school Union, which we offer at the following low prices:

Union Questions, vols. 1 and 2, New Testament, per doz	$2 00
Union Questions, vols. 3, 4, and 6, on Old Testament, per doz	2 00
Child's Scripture Questions, per doz.	2 00
Good Tidings Catechism, per doz	30
Elementary Scripture Questions, per doz	2 00
Consecutive Questions, on Matthew, per doz	2 00
Consecutive Questions on Mark, per doz.	2 00
" " " Luke, " "	2 00
" " " John, " "	2 00
Little Hymns, paper, per doz	40
New Sunday-school Union Hymns, per doz	3 00
Union Primers, per doz	50
Union Spellers, per doz	2 00
First Reader, per doz.	75
Second Reader, per doz	1 00
Union Bible Dictionary, each	1 75
Class Books, one year, each	10
Class Books, improved, each	20
Roll Books, each	30
Receiving Book	35
Minute Book	40
Library Record	40
Map of Palestine, on rollers	1 50
Chart of Solomon's Temple	2 50
Cabinet Library, 50 vols.	4 50
Home Library, 50 vols.	5 00
Juvenile Library, 75 vols.	8 00
Select Library, 100 vols.	17 00
We also have Sunday-school Testaments, per doz	1 80
Also Longking's Questions, in 4 vols., per doz.	2 00
Longking's Notes, 4 vols., each	90

Sunday-school Bibles always on hand.

SUNDAY-SCHOOL BELL—A large stock kept constantly on hand. Price, per doz., $4 25. Single copy, 40 cents.